Agenda Date: 8/16/06 Agenda Item: IV D



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities Two Gateway Center Newark, NJ 07102 www.bpu.state.nj.us

IN THE MATTER OF THE VERIFIED	
PETITION OF NOS COMMUNICATIONS,	
INC. FOR APPROVAL OF A CHANGE IN	
OWNERSHIP OF AN AUTHORIZED	
TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROVIDER	

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

ORDER OF APPROVAL

DOCKET NO. TM06060453

(SERVICE LIST ATTACHED)

BY THE BOARD:

On June 13, 2006, NOS Communications, Inc. (NOS or Petitioner), by its counsel and pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:2-51.1, 48:3-7, 48:3-9 and 48:3-10, filed a petition with the Board of Public Utilities (Board) requesting the approval of a proposed transfer of control of NOS as the result of the acquisition of the shares of Robert A. Lichtenstein (Mr. Lichtenstein), the largest shareholder of NOS, by another shareholder, Samual P. Delug (Mr. Delug). Upon consummation of the transfer, NOS will continue to offer services on the same terms, rates and conditions that it currently provides such services in the State.

BACKGROUND

According to the Petition, all of the shares of NOS are held by three individuals, all of whom are U.S. citizens: Mr. Delug, Ms. Rosette Delug (Ms. Delug), and Mr. Lichtenstein. Mr. Delug and Ms. Delug each hold a 25 percent ownership interest in NOS, while Mr. Lichtenstein holds the remaining 50 percent. In New Jersey, NOS provides service to approximately 2,300 customers.

DISCUSSION

According to the petition, on June 1, 2006, Mr. Delug and Mr. Lichtenstein entered into a Purchase Agreement pursuant to which Mr. Delug will purchase the 50% ownership interest of stock from Mr. Lichtenstein, in return for a cash payment. Following consummation of the transaction, Mr. Delug will hold a 75 percent ownership interest in NOS, and Ms. Delug will continue to hold a 25 percent ownership interest in NOS.

Petitioners state that transfer of control will be transparent to customers of NOS. The transfer of control will not result in a change of carrier for NOS's customers. Following the consummation of the transaction, NOS will continue to offer the same services at the same rates, terms and conditions and any future changes will be made consistent with the Board's requirements. Petitioners claim that the transaction serves the public interest. Mr. Delug's purchase of Mr. Lichtenstein's ownership interest in NOS will ensure that NOS is owned and operated by a committed and interested control group, thereby ensuring its continued competitive operations.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

After a thorough review of the petition and all related documents, the Board concludes that there will be no negative impact on service quality to New Jersey customers or the rates they pay. Nor will there be a negative impact on competition. Likewise, there will be no negative impact upon employees in the State. Moreover, a positive benefit may be expected by ensuring NOS' continued competitive operations under the control of a committed owner.

Accordingly, after careful review of this matter, the Board <u>FINDS</u> that the transaction will have no negative impact on competition, the rates of current customers, or on employees. The Board also <u>FINDS</u> that the transfer will have no negative impact on the provision of safe, adequate and proper service, and will positively benefit competition. Therefore, the Board, after investigation, having considered the record and exhibits submitted in this proceeding, <u>FINDS</u> that the transfer is in accordance with the law and in the public interest. The Board <u>HEREBY ORDERS</u> that Petitioners shall notify the Board of the closing of the proposed transaction within ten (10) days of consummation of the transfer.

DATED: 8/18/06

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES BY:

COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER

CONNIE O. HUGHES COMMISSIONER

CHRISTINE V. BATOR COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within document is a true copy of the original in the files of the Board of Public

Utilities

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

SEPH L. FIORDALISO

Service List

Docket No. TM06060453

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